

**REGULAR TOWN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 6, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Avery led the roll call, which was answered by the following:

Mayor Pugh	Present
Vice Mayor Coz	Present
Commissioner Aijala Jr.	Present
Commissioner Cassidy	Present
Commissioner Hutchins	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pugh led the pledge of allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no additions, deletions, or modifications to the agenda.

**Vice Mayor Coz moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Commissioner Hutchins.
Motion carried 5-0. (:54)**

PRESENTATIONS & PROCLAMATIONS

1. Senator Lori Berman – Legislative Update

Senator Berman provided an overview of the State's budget and the passed legislative bills. She also mentioned that the Town has an appropriation amount of \$250,000 for the water valve project. Commissioner Cassidy asked about mobility fees and Senator Berman answered her question.

2. Proclamation: Municipal Clerks Week of May 5 – May 11, 2024

Town Clerk Avery read the proclamations into the record. She recognized Town Clerk Kelly Avery and Deputy Town Clerk Katina Pinder for their services.

3. Proclamation for National Police Week May 12-18, 2024, and National Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15, 2024

Town Clerk Avery read the proclamation into the record.

4. Recognition of Commission Carolyn Cassidy's appointment to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Commission (Alternate Seat)

Town Clerk Avery announced the news regarding Commissioner Cassidy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5. The meeting schedule for the month is as follows: Regular Town Commission Meeting & CIP Meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:00 PM; A Town Commission Workshop re: Planning & Zoning Objectives will be held on May 13, 2024, at 10:00 am; Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 9:00; Adjustment Meeting tentatively. All meetings are held in the Commission Chambers at the Town Hall.**

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- 6. Town Hall will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024, in observance of Memorial Day.**
- 7. Residents who wish to sign up to receive important Town notifications and news through Civic Ready should sign up on the Town's website or call Town Hall for assistance.**

Town Clerk Avery read the announcements into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENT - (3-minute individual limit)

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

Stella Kolb – thanked the town for their help with the Starbright event.

Carol Besler – thanked the Commission, Town Manager Ladner, Police Department, and staff for their help with the event. She also read a letter from a resident stating that the event was a remarkable success and asked that the Commission consider a Veterans Day Town picnic.

Betty Bingham – requested if an on-site inspection is a part of a variance application.

Laurie Kramer – expressed her concerns regarding construction at 3 Hudson Avenue.

Lisa Ritota – expressed her concerns about new homes and said the town staff are rude and unfriendly.

Ron Kirm – thanked the town building inspectors for their prompt service in the completion of their seawall.

Terry Brown – spoke about the appointment of the Board Adjustment & Planning Zoning Board Members.

Erin – spoke about the election discrepancies and untrusting signatures.

Mikki – suggested that the town take back control of the election from the Supervisor Elections Office.

Candace Rajas – submitted a public record request for oaths and bonds. She stated that she represents the American Sovereign People and expressed her concerns regarding election fraud.

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items that do not require discussion)

- 8. Adopt Minutes of the April 1, 2024 Regular Town Commission Meeting**
- 9. Adopt Minutes of the April 8, 2024 Special Town Commission Meeting**
- 10. Approval of the Purchase of a 500 Gallon Sub-Base Tank for Generator at the Coconut Pump Station**
- 11. Releasing Two Frozen Police Department Positions**
- 12. Removal of Invasive Trees & Shrubs and Clean up in the Preserve/Retention Area**
- 13. Approval of the March Revenue & Expenditure Report**
- 14. Approval of the 2024 Annual Progress Report on Flood Miti Plan**
- 15. Approval of the Strategic Goals**

Mayor Pugh asked for approval of the Consent Agenda.

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Vice Mayor Coz moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Commissioner Cassidy Motion carried 5-0. (47:52)

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

16. Appoint New Planning & Zoning Board Members

Town Clerk Avery handed out the ballots to the Town Commission. The results of the votes were selecting Marc DeBaptiste and Kenneth Kaleel as Planning & Zoning Members.

Town Clerk Avery handed out the ballots regarding selecting an Alternate Planning & Zoning Commission. The results of the votes were Fady Khairallah as Alternate Planning & Zoning Member.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to accept the newly elected Planning & Zoning Members and Alternate Planning & Zoning Member; seconded by Commissioner Cassidy. Motion carried 5-0. (54:21)

17. Appoint New Board of Adjustment Members

Town Clerk Avery handed out the ballots to the Town Commission. The results of the votes were selecting Robert Sloat and Arthur Ziev as Board of Adjustment Members.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to appoint Robert Sloat and Arthur Ziev as Board of Adjustment Members; seconded by Commissioner Hutchins. Motion carried 5-0. (56:32)

18. Approval of Resolution 2024-04, A Resolution Of The Mayor And Town Commission Of The Town Of Ocean Ridge, Florida, Authorizing Publication Of Town Notices On A Publicly Accessible Website As An Alternative To Newspaper Publication; Directing Annual Notice By Newspaper Publication Of Alternative Means Of Receiving Town Notices; Providing For Maintenance Of A Registry Of Persons Desiring Receipt Of Town Notices By First Class Mail Or Email; Directing That A Link To The Notice Website Be Conspicuously Posted On The Town's Website; Providing For An Effective Date And All Other Purposes.

Town Clerk Avery read Resolution 2024-04 into the record by title. Town Manager Ladner explained the item. There were questions regarding the time limit, link accessibility, and publication of the legal notices. Town Manager Ladner answered the questions.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

Terry Brown--explained that posting the notices electronically will have an impact on Palm Beach Post.

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment and asked for Commissioner's comment. There were none.

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Vice Mayor Coz moved to adopt Resolution 2024-04 effective immediately; seconded by Commissioner Hutchin. Motion carried 5-0. (1:02)

19. Town Commission's Performance Evaluation of the Town Manager

Town Attorney Goddeau explained the item. There was a discussion between the Commission regarding the Town Manager's evaluation and the increase in her salary.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

Terry Brown – spoke on the Town Manager's contract.

Stella Kolb – expressed her appreciation for the Town Manager and agreed with the 5% increase in her salary.

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment.

Town Attorney Goddeau clarified that there is a severance in the manager's contract to prevent litigation.

Commissioner Aijala moved to hold the Town Manager evaluation until after the one-on-ones are completed; seconded by Vice Mayor Coz. Motion carried 5-0. (1:19)

Commissioner Aijala moved to approve a 5 % cola increase for the Town Manager effective May 7, 2024; seconded by Vice Mayor Coz. Motion carried 5-0. (1:20)

20. Consideration of Street Name Change

Franklin Hoet, owner of 2 Whitney Way, explained his request. A brief discussion ensued on the history of the street name.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

Spencer Blank – commented on the address showing up on Google.

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment.

Vice Mayor Coz moved to deny the name change of Whitney Way; seconded by Commissioner Cassidy. Motion carried 5-0. (1:26)

21. Consideration of Mitigation of Lien at 23 Coconut Lane.

Town Attorney Goddeau gave an update on the item.

Spencer Blank, the prospective buyer, explained his proposal for consideration of reduction of the lien.

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There was a brief discussion between the Town Commission and Mr. Blank regarding a signed contract, purchasing the property with liens, and reduction of the lien.

Mayor Pugh called for public comment, and there was none.

Commissioner Hutchins moved to deny the mitigation of the lien at 23 Coconut Lane; seconded by Commissioner Cassidy. Motion carried 5-0. (1:33)

STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

22. Town Manager Ladner

Town Manager Ladner said that her report was included in the meeting package. She asked the Commission for the “must-haves” regarding the Compensation Study Target Cities. There was a brief discussion about vegetation pickup for the hurricane season. The Commission chose a pick-up date of June 4, 2024. More discussion followed regarding purchasing two (2) mangrove parcels and a property located directly north of the town hall.

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment.

Christine DeHaseth – supports the purchase of the property but suggests limiting the restrictions.

Terry Brown – supports the purchase of the property.

Stella Kolb – supports the purchase of the property.

Jeff Eder – expressed his concerns and does not support the purchase of the northern property.

Mayor Pugh closed the floor for public comment.

There was a consensus to allow Town Manager Ladner to negotiate the purchase of the northern property to not exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

23. Town Attorney Goddeau

Town Attorney did not have a report to present. There was a discussion regarding the required quorum that is required to vote at meetings.

24. Police Chief

Chief McClure said that his report was included in the meeting package.

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ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Pinder and adopted by the Town Commission on June 3, 2024.


Steve Coz, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Kelly Avery, Town Clerk

